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Nevertheless, though nominally a failure the company was in considerable degree a success as regards Colbert's purposes; for by its means the French islands were rehabilitated, and the Dutch were replaced by private French traders in the markets, greatly to the prosperity of Bordeaux, Nantes and La Rochelle.

The first half of the book is in chronological form; the second is devoted to the topical treatment of the exclusion of the foreign traders, the rise of the private traders, the islands exports of tobacco and sugar, and the imports of servants, slaves, foodstuffs and other supplies. The book is the fruit of elaborate research in the French archives. It is admirably written and heavily documented. It is to be followed by other books by the same author continuing the history of the French West Indies to the time of the American Revolution.

U. B. P.

The Agrarian Problem in the Sixteenth Century. By R. H. TAWNEY. (Longmans, Green and Company, London and New York, 1912. Pp. xii, 464.)

Mr. Tawney has given us a work which combines, in a rare degree, painstaking investigation and literary grace. With minute detail, accompanied, however, by luminous discussion, he traces a course of development which is significant from no less than three standpoints—the economic, the legal, and the political. As regards the first, much light is thrown upon the “reaction of growing markets on methods of subsistence farming, the development of competitive rents, the building up of the great estates, and the appearance, or, at any rate, the extension of the tripartite division into landlord, capitalist farmer, and landless aricultural laborer.” Concerning the second, the peculiar interest lies in “the struggle between copyhold and leasehold and the ground gained by the latter.” Finally, the important political feature of the problem lies in the issue of the conflicting views as to the relative value of estate containing large numbers of tenants “able to do service,” and those yielding great pecuniary returns, irrespective of the size of the tenantry. In successive chapters the author described the various classes of landholders, and copyholders; traces the transition to capitalist agriculture, and discusses the outcome of the agrarian revolution. Six maps in color add much to the value of the work. By copious citations from contemporaneous authors and from original records, Mr.

Tawney enables us to test his results, and shows us what the lesser folk lost in the transformation of England from a land of small cultivators into a country of capitalists.

A. L. C.

Notes on the Science of Government and the Relations of the States to the United States. By RALEIGH C. MINOR. (University of Virginia: Anderson Brothers, 1913. Pp. 192.)

The above work falls into two parts, in the first of which are considered "(1) the origin and nature of government; (2) the limitations upon the powers of government; (3) the several forms of government." In the second part the states' rights theory of the Union is stated in its various forms, in juxtaposition to the nationalist theory. The writer's bias is decidedly on the side of the former theory, which he rests upon the following propositions: sec. 162, "(1) that sovereignty rested with the States alone prior to the adoption of the Constitution; (2) that this sovereignty was vested, not in the state governments, nor yet in the people of each State in their sovereign capacity, as directly expressing the *supreme will* of the State; (3) that when the popular conventions in the several States ratified the Constitution of the United States the people were then acting in their highest sovereign capacity; . . . (5) that in ratifying the Constitution the States did not delegate their ultimate sovereignty to the United States, but only certain powers," etc. The reviewer believes that in 1787 the terms "people of the States" and "people of the United States" were of indifferent significance, legally and politically, and that the antithesis between them was of later date. (See debates in the 1st Congress, on Amendments.) He also believes that the great bulk of evidence goes to show that when the term "sovereign" was applied to the States in 1787, it was the state governments that were referred to. It is true that Madison in *Federalist* 39 characterizes the people of the State as sovereign, but he also says in the same place that the Constitution is to rest "on the ratification of the *people of America* given . . . not as *individuals* composing one entire nation but as *composing* the distinct and independent States," etc. In other words, the national government was the result from the creative act of individuals, exercising their primitive right of consent, just as the state governments had already arisen from a previous similar act. (See Madison to Webster, March 15, 1833.) Furthermore in *Federalist* 39, one reads the following: "In controversies relating to the boundary be-